

Amendments to the Specification

Please delete paragraph [0001].

Please add the following new paragraph before paragraph [0002]:

[0001.1] The invention relates to a method for operating a fuel cell system and to a fuel cell system. In particular, the invention relates to a method for operating a fuel cell system for supplying at least one electric load with electric power, having at least one fuel cell and an energy storage device, and a switching device for disconnecting and connecting the fuel cell system from/to the at least one load. The invention also relates to a fuel cell system for supplying at least one electric load with electric power, having at least one fuel cell and an energy storage device, and a switching device for disconnecting and connecting the fuel cell system from/to the at least one load.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0002]:

BACKGROUND

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0009]:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] ~~The~~ An object of the invention is to provide a fuel cell system and a method for operating this fuel cell system which avoids the aforementioned disadvantages of the prior art and represents a low-cost, robust, reliably operating high-performance fuel cell system.

Please delete paragraph [0010].

Please add the following new paragraph before paragraph [0011]:

[0010.1] The present invention provides a method for operating a fuel cell system for supplying at least one electric load with electric power, having at least one fuel cell and an energy storage device, and also a switching device for disconnecting and connecting the fuel cell system from/to

the at least one load. At least two switches of the switching device, the fuel cell and the energy storage device can be periodically connected and disconnected to and from the at least one electric load independently of one another. The present invention furthermore provides a fuel cell system for supplying at least one electric load with electric power, having at least one fuel cell and an energy storage device, and also a switching device for disconnecting and connecting the fuel cell system from and to the at least one load. The switching device has at least two switches, so that the fuel cell and the energy storage device can be disconnected and connected from and to the at least one electric load independently of one another.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0016]:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] Further particularly favorable configurational variants of the invention are ~~provided by the subclaims and become clear from the exemplary embodiment, which is~~ explained in more detail below with reference to the figures, in which:

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0021]:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] If the fuel cell 2 is switched off, as may become necessary for example for control reasons, as are described in the aforementioned ~~DE 100 54 429 A1~~ DE 100 56 429 A1, supplying of the load 4 can be maintained by the energy storage device 3. At the point in time t_6 , the point in time of renewed additional connection of the fuel cell 2 by means of closing the switch 5a, a repeat cycle X begins once again in the case described here. The regular switching off of the fuel cell 2 also allows the high voltages produced by switching on again to be ideally used for boosting the voltage on the basis of the inherent capacitance of the fuel cell 2.

On page 12, please amend the heading as follows:

~~PATENT CLAIMS:~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: